

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 24, 39, 42, 43, 49 and 58 are amended as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A holding device for attaching a drape for a surgical microscope in the region of the main objective thereof, said main objective defining an optical axis and having an outer peripheral surface and said holding device comprising:

a holding unit having an annular side wall defining a recess for said objective; and,

said holding unit having a plurality of individual tongue-shaped sections having respective tips and projecting from said side wall for applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit on said main objective; and,

said individual tongue-shaped sections projecting from said side wall into said recess inclined at an angle with respect to said optical axis in a direction away from said surgical microscope so as to permit said tips to contact engage said outer peripheral surface of said main objective to apply said spring force thereto.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) A holding device for attaching a drape for a surgical microscope in the region of the main objective thereof, said main objective having an outer peripheral surface and said holding device comprising:

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a holding unit defining a recess for said objective;

said holding unit having a tongue-shaped section for applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit on said main objective;

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said holding unit having a plurality of said tongue-shaped sections; and,

said tongue-shaped sections having different lengths.

4. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 3, wherein said holding unit has an annular section defining an annular recess and said annular recess defines an axis; and, said tongue-shaped sections extend in an inclined direction to said axis.

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5. (Original) The holding device of claim 4, wherein said tongue-shaped sections are directed toward the inner side of said annular section.

6. (Original) The holding device of claim 5, wherein the direction of said tongue-shaped sections to said axis is different.

7. (Original) The holding device of claim 1, said holding unit including a stop element for impacting against an end face region of said main objective.

8. (Original) The holding device of claim 1, further comprising a cover element; and, said holding unit including means for holding said cover element.

9. (Original) The holding device of claim 8, wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover element.

10. (Original) The holding device of claim 9, wherein said holding means includes clamping means.

11. (Original) The holding device of claim 10, wherein said holding means includes latching means.

12. (Original) The holding device of claim 11, wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover element.

13. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 1, wherein said holding unit is made of plastic.

14. (Original) The holding device of claim 8, wherein said cover element is matched to said holding unit so as to permit said cover element to be accommodated in said holding unit in two orientations rotated by 180° to each other.

15. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 1, further comprising:

a cover element having a window section for passing a viewing beam path and/or an illuminating beam path of said surgical microscope;

the cover element including:

a holding section for holding said cover element in said holding unit; and,

linear guide means in said holding section for
10 facilitating a lateral introduction of said cover element into
said holding unit.

16. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 15,
wherein said holding section includes, at least partially, a
thickened edge.

17. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 16,
further comprising at least one notch formed in said thickened
edge.

18. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 15,
further comprising a handle formed on said cover element.

19. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 18,
wherein said holding section defines a region lying opposite
said handle and said region of said holding section has a
boundary edge having a convex contour.

20. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 19,
wherein said boundary edge has at least one rounded edge
region.

21. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 15,
further comprising a window base for carrying said window
section.

22. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 21,
wherein said window base is configured to have a conical cross
section.

23. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 22, wherein said window section is inclined to said holding section.

24. (Currently Amended) The holding device of claim 15, ~~which~~ said cover element ~~[[is]]~~ being made of PMMA.

25. (Previously Presented) A drape system for a surgical microscope having a main objective and said main objective defining an optical axis and having an outer peripheral surface, the drape system comprising:

5 a drape;

 a holding device for attaching said drape in the region of said main objective;

 said holding device including a holding unit having an annular side wall defining a recess for said main objective;

10 said holding unit having a plurality of individual tongue-shaped sections having respective tips and projecting from said side wall for applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said main objective in order to
15 force-tightly hold said holding unit on said main objective;
 and,

 said individual tongue-shaped sections projecting from said side wall into said recess inclined at an angle with respect to said optical axis in a direction away from said
20 surgical microscope so as to permit said tips to contact engage said outer peripheral surface of said main objective to apply said spring force thereto.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Previously Presented) A drape system for a surgical microscope having a main objective and said main objective having an outer peripheral surface, the drape system comprising:

5 a drape;

 a holding device for attaching said drape in the region of said main objective;

 said holding device including a holding unit defining a recess for said main objective; and,

10 said holding unit having a tongue-shaped section for applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit on said main objective;

15 said holding unit having a plurality of said tongue-shaped sections; and,

 said tongue-shaped sections having different lengths.

28. (Previously Presented) The drape system of claim 27, wherein said holding unit has an annular section defining an axis and defining an annular recess and said annular recess defines an axis; and, said tongue-shaped sections extend in an
5 inclined direction to said axis.

29. (Original) The drape system of claim 28, wherein said tongue-shaped sections are directed toward the inner side of said annular section.

30. (Original) The drape system of claim 29, wherein the direction of said tongue-shaped sections to said axis is different.

31. (Original) The drape system of claim 25, said holding unit including a stop element for impacting against an end face region of said main objective.

32. (Original) The drape system of claim 25, further comprising a cover element; and, said holding unit including means for holding said cover element.

33. (Original) The drape system of claim 32, wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover element.

34. (Original) The drape system of claim 33, wherein said holding means includes clamping means.

35. (Original) The drape system of claim 34, wherein said holding means includes latching means.

36. (Original) The drape system of claim 35, wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover element.

37. (Previously Presented) The drape system of claim 25, wherein said holding unit is made of plastic.

38. (Original) The drape system of claim 32, wherein said cover element is matched to said holding unit so as to permit said cover element to be accommodated in said holding unit in two orientations rotated by 180° to each other.

39. (Currently Amended) A holding device for attaching a drape for a surgical microscope in the region of the main objective thereof, said main objective defining an optical axis and having an outer peripheral surface defining a diameter and

5 said holding device comprising:

 a holding unit connected to said drape and having an annular wall defining a recess for said objective;

 said recess having a fixed diameter;

 said holding unit having a plurality of individual
10 tongue-shaped sections having respective tips and projecting from said side wall for applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit on said main objective;

15 said individual tongue-shaped ~~section~~ sections being configured to bend differently depending upon said diameter of said outer peripheral surface of said main objective to thereby hold said holding unit on said main objective independently of said fixed diameter; and,

20 said individual tongue-shaped sections projecting from said side wall into said recess inclined at an angle with respect to said optical axis in a direction away from said surgical microscope so as to permit said tips to contact engage said outer peripheral surface of said main objective to apply
25 said spring force thereto.

40. (Cancelled).

41. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 1, wherein said tongue-shaped sections have different lengths.

42. (Currently Amended) The holding device of ~~claim 1~~
claim 39, said holding unit including a stop element for impacting against an end face region of said main objective.

43. (Currently Amended) The holding device of ~~claim 1~~

claim 39, further comprising a cover element; and, said holding unit including means for holding said cover element.

44. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 43, wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover element.

45. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 44, wherein said holding means includes clamping means.

46. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 45, wherein said holding means includes latching means.

47. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 46, wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover element.

48. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 43, wherein said cover element is matched to said holding unit so as to permit said cover element to be accommodated in said holding unit in two orientations rotated by 180° to each other.

49. (Currently Amended) The holding device of ~~claim 1~~
claim 39, further comprising:

5 a cover element having a window section for passing a viewing beam path and/or an illuminating beam path of said surgical microscope;

the cover element including:

a holding section for holding said cover element in said holding unit; and,

10 linear guide means in said holding section for facilitating a lateral introduction of said cover element into

said holding unit.

50. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 49, wherein said holding section includes, at least partially, a thickened edge.

51. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 50, further comprising at least one notch formed in said thickened edge.

52. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 49, further comprising a handle formed on said cover element.

53. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 52, wherein said holding section defines a region lying opposite said handle and said region of said holding section has a boundary edge having a convex contour.

54. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 53, wherein said boundary edge has at least one rounded edge region.

55. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 49, further comprising a window base for carrying said window section.

56. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 55, wherein said window base is configured to have a conical cross section.

57. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 56, wherein said window section is inclined to said holding

section.

58. (Currently Amended) The holding device of claim 49, ~~which~~
said cover element ~~[[is]]~~ being made of PMMA.

59. (Previously Presented) The drape system of claim 27, said
holding unit including a stop element for impacting against an
end face region of said main objective.

60. (Previously Presented) The drape system of claim 27,
further comprising a cover element; and, said holding unit
including means for holding said cover element.

61. (Previously Presented) The drape system of claim 60,
wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover
element.

62. (Previously Presented) The drape system of claim 61,
wherein said holding means includes clamping means.

63. (Previously Presented) The drape system of claim 62,
wherein said holding means includes latching means.

64. (Previously Presented) The drape system of claim 63,
wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover
element.

65. (Previously Presented) The drape system of claim 27,
wherein said holding unit is made of plastic.